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## Letter dated 9 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the Pakistan presidency of the Security Council, for May 2004 (see annex). This has been prepared on my own authority, but I have consulted other members of the Council before submitting it.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Munir **Akram**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-45678 (E) 260804

## Annex to the letter dated 9 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

## Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Pakistan (May 2004)

### Introduction

During the presidency of Pakistan in May 2004, the major focus of the Security Council remained on Africa, Iraq and peacekeeping. The issues of peace and security in Asia, Europe and the Middle East received active consideration.

In the case of Africa, the Council addressed the serious situation on the border between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, reviewed the continuing political impasse between Ethiopia and Eritrea, assessed the implementation of the arms embargo on Somalia, and reinforced efforts to revive the stalled political process in Côte d'Ivoire. The Council also decided to send a Security Council mission to West Africa from 20 to 29 June. The Council received regular briefings on the humanitarian situation in the Darfur region of the Sudan and adopted a presidential statement on the subject. Further, the Council authorized the establishment of a peacekeeping operation in Burundi.

In anticipation of the transfer of sovereignty in Iraq by 30 June, the Council received the last quarterly briefing from the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as envisaged under resolution 1483 (2003). Discussions on a new Iraq resolution commenced in different formats during the month and a draft text was introduced in the Council on 24 May.

On issues relating to Asia, the Council reviewed progress towards peace in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, and extended the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor with a modified mandate. The Council received regular briefings on the situations in Afghanistan and the Middle East. It adopted resolution 1544 (2004) expressing concern at the demolition of houses in the Rafah area and calling upon Israel to respect its obligations under international law.

In the case of Europe, the Council was briefed on the recent violence in Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and the way the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo had handled the violence and was coping with its aftermath.

Terrorism continued to be a matter of priority consideration. The Council strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Grozny, Russian Federation; received a briefing on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban, approved the appointment of the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, and elected a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the Committee.

In the context of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, dealing with cooperation with regional organizations, the Council received a briefing from the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Council also received a briefing from the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees on the link between forced population movement and international peace and security.

The Council held two thematic debates. The first, on United Nations peacekeeping operations, focused on the surge in demand for United Nations peacekeeping in different parts of the world and the need to generate sufficient troop levels as well as the necessary political, logistical and financial support for the United Nations to meet the current and future requirements and challenges. The second debate, on complex crises and United Nations response, highlighted the growing involvement of the United Nations in complex crises and emergencies and underlined the need for a comprehensive, coherent and integrated response on the part of the United Nations system, including the principal organs, the Secretariat, and the agencies, funds and programmes.

There was enhanced interaction during the month between the Security Council and the other principal organs — the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. At the invitation of the President of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the Council attended a meeting on the ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict (Burundi and Guinea-Bissau). The President of the Economic and Social Council participated in the Council's thematic debate on complex crises and United Nations response. At the invitation of the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Council accompanied by three Council colleagues participated in the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on matters relating to Security Council reform.

Consistent with the objective of greater openness and transparency in its work, the Council held 20 formal meetings in May — 19 public meetings, and 1 private meeting with troop-contributing countries. In addition, it held 13 sessions of informal consultations. The Council thus conducted the bulk of its work during the month in open, public sessions.

During the month, the Council adopted three resolutions and five presidential statements (see appendix I). The President was authorized by Council members to make statements to the press on two occasions (see appendix II). The presidency regularly briefed non-members on Council deliberations in the informal consultations. Information relating to the programme of work and the outcome of open meetings was made available on the presidency's web site.

## Africa

### Burundi

The ongoing consultations on the establishment of a peacekeeping operation in Burundi concluded with the unanimous adoption of resolution 1545 (2004) on 21 May. The Council authorized the deployment of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) with a maximum of 5,650 military personnel, including 200 observers and 125 staff officers, up to 120 civilian police and the appropriate civilian personnel. To be deployed as from 1 June 2004, for an initial period of six months, ONUB would initially be composed of the forces from the African Mission in Burundi. The mandate of ONUB includes helping the Transitional Government to consolidate recent political progress, promoting confidence among the Burundian parties, carrying out disarmament and demobilization, and contributing to the

successful completion of the electoral process as stipulated in the Arusha Agreement. The Secretary-General was present at the adoption of the resolution. In a statement later, he praised the Council for opening a "new door in the Burundi peace process" and urged the leaders and people of Burundi to seize this "unique opportunity to further national reconciliation and facilitate the preparation of national elections".

Subsequently, in a letter to the President of the Council dated 24 May (S/2004/433), the Secretary-General conveyed his intention to appoint the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Carolyn McAskie (Canada), as his Special Representative for Burundi and Head of ONUB. The Secretary-General also expressed his deep appreciation for the work of Berhanu Dinka (Ethiopia), who had served as his Special Representative for Burundi since July 2002.

**Côte d'Ivoire**

Throughout May, the Council remained seized of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire where the peace process was at an impasse. During informal consultations on 14 May, the Council received a briefing from the Acting United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Bertrand Ramcharan, on the findings and main recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry on the events of 25 and 26 March 2004 in Abidjan. The Council members expressed serious concern about the deteriorating situation in the country, especially in the context of the March incidents. They condemned the violations of human rights, stressed the importance of putting an end to impunity, and underlined the need to hold accountable all those responsible for violations of human rights, in particular those committed in March in Abidjan. They supported the recommendation for an international commission of inquiry to investigate all violations going back to September 2002.

The Council members recognized the complexity of the prevailing situation — the breakdown of the peace process and the pronounced differences between the parties. Accordingly, some members called for a measured but firm response by the Council. The priority was to revive the peace process and pressure the parties to fulfil their commitments for the full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. One member indicated its intention to submit a draft presidential statement for the Council's consideration. Serious concern was also expressed at the reported threatening statements and slogans against the United Nations and international personnel during the recent demonstrations in Abidjan. The Council members emphasized that the safety and security of United Nations personnel was the responsibility of the Ivorian authorities. The President was authorized to make a statement to the press following the consultations (see appendix).

On 25 May, the Council received another update from the Secretariat on the Ivorian situation, which had further deteriorated in the wake of the decision by President Laurent Gbagbo to dismiss three Ministers belonging to the opposition and the rumours that the Prime Minister, Seydou Diarra, might resign. At a formal meeting following the consultations, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/17) expressing its grave concern at the events of March 2004 and as well as the impasse in the peace process. The Council reaffirmed the individual responsibility of each of the Ivorian actors to ensure the full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, and reiterated its complete readiness to take any necessary further steps against individuals who blocked the full implementation of

the Agreement. The Council strongly condemned the human rights violations in Côte d'Ivoire, and requested the Secretary-General to expeditiously establish the international commission of inquiry. It expressed deep concern at the slogans and declarations of hate addressed against the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, and urged all Ivorian parties to refrain from any action or statement, especially in the media, which put at risk the security of United Nations personnel and the process of national reconciliation. The Council reiterated its full support for the Prime Minister and stressed that no concrete progress could be made in the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement until the Government of National Reconciliation composed on 13 March 2003 and completed on 12 September 2003 met again under the authority of the Prime Minister.

**Darfur, Sudan**

Under "other matters" in the informal consultations on 7 May, the Council received consecutive briefings from the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, James Morris, and the Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights on the humanitarian and human rights situations, respectively, in the Darfur region of the Sudan in the light of two separate missions to that region. The Secretary-General also attended the briefings. The Council was informed of the grave humanitarian situation in Darfur, which could further worsen with the onset of the rainy season. There was a need for the Government of the Sudan to provide immediate unimpeded access to facilitate the provision of humanitarian relief to the affected populations. Also underlined were the Government's duty to protect the civilians, to bring the Janjaweed militia under control, and to take measures to prevent any recurrence of the violations. The members expressed deep concern at the reported human rights violations in Darfur.

On 24 May, an Arria-formula meeting was organized by Germany with the participation of relevant non-governmental organizations for an exchange of views and information on the situation in Darfur. A representative of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan attended the first half of the meeting and gave his Government's views on the international concerns relating to Darfur.

On 25 May, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/18) expressing grave concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Darfur and the continuing reports of large-scale violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The Council reiterated its call on the parties, in particular the Government of the Sudan, to ensure the protection of civilians and to facilitate humanitarian access to the affected population, emphasized the need for the Government to facilitate the voluntary and safe return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes, and to provide protection for them, and called upon all parties, including opposition groups, to support these objectives. The Council welcomed the ceasefire agreement of 8 April, expressed its full and active support for the efforts of the African Union to establish the ceasefire commission and protection units, and called upon the Sudanese parties to facilitate the immediate deployment of monitors in Darfur. The Council also emphasized the urgent need for all parties to observe the ceasefire and to take immediate measures to end the violence, and called on the Government of the Sudan to respect its commitments to ensure that the Janjaweed militias were neutralized and disarmed. The Council called upon the international community to respond rapidly and effectively to the

consolidated appeal for Darfur. The Council encouraged the parties to step up their efforts to reach a political settlement to their dispute.

On 26 May, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland, updated the Council on the humanitarian situation in Darfur. The Under-Secretary-General stated that the humanitarian crisis was worsening. Mounting the humanitarian relief effort was a race against time. He welcomed the presidential statement adopted by the Council as an important and timely contribution to the international community's efforts to avert a humanitarian disaster in Darfur. His briefing focused on three main elements. First, relating to the Government of the Sudan, there were continuing problems of access and protection of civilians. He stressed that the Government needed to do a lot more to provide full and unimpeded access, to remove all restrictions and bureaucratic procedures, to assure the security and safety of the civilian population and to disarm and neutralize the Janjaweed militias which continued to attack civilians and displaced populations. Secondly, he mentioned the absence of international non-governmental organizations and the lack of capacity on the ground to provide humanitarian assistance. Thirdly, he referred to the financial constraints -- the serious shortfall of contributions in response to the humanitarian appeal for Darfur. The Council was informed that a high-level donors meeting was being convened at Geneva on 3 June 2004.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**

The Council closely monitored and addressed the growing tensions between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on account of reported border incidents. On 4 May, the Council was briefed in informal consultations by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, who gave a factual account of the events especially with regard to the claims of border incursions, and stated that these were being verified. It was stressed that these incidents should be used to impress upon the two sides the need to work together to build confidence and to evolve joint border security mechanisms that would prevent the recurrence of such incidents. The Council members, in their comments, expressed serious concern at the recent developments, stressed the need for establishing border security mechanisms, and called upon both sides to take steps to normalize their relations.

In a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/15) adopted on 14 May, the Council expressed serious concern regarding reports of an incursion into the Democratic Republic of the Congo by elements of the Rwandan army, and the reports of increased military activity by the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and incursions by them into the territory of Rwanda. The Council demanded that the Government of Rwanda take measures to prevent the presence of any of its troops on Congolese territory. It called on the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda to investigate jointly, with the assistance of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the substance of recent reports of armed incursions across their mutual border and to establish border security mechanisms to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. The Council urged all Governments in the region to encourage the re-establishment of confidence between neighbouring countries, in accordance with the Declaration of Principles on Good-Neighbourly Relations and Cooperation between the Governments of the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, adopted in New York by leaders of the region on 25 September 2003.

**Ethiopia and Eritrea**

During informal consultations on 4 May, the Council was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The general military situation was described as calm and stable. The Council was updated on the deterioration in cooperation between Eritrea and the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and on Ethiopia's continued opposition to the Boundary Commission's decision. It was emphasized that these factors raised questions about the long-term viability of UNMEE.

In their comments, the Council members noted with deep concern the continued lack of progress in the implementation of the demarcation decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and reiterated the call on the parties to cooperate fully and promptly with the Boundary Commission and to create the necessary conditions for demarcation to proceed expeditiously. They reiterated their support for the efforts by the Special Envoy to engage the two parties with the objective of overcoming the current stalemate in the peace process, and called upon both parties to explore ways of moving the demarcation process forward. The members further expressed their concern at the deterioration in the cooperation of Eritrea with UNMEE and viewed with disappointment Ethiopia's continued rejection of significant parts of the Boundary Commission decision. Following these consultations, the President made a statement to the press (see appendix).

**Somalia**

On 26 May, the Council heard a briefing by the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia, Ambassador Lauro L. Baja of the Philippines, on the midterm report of the Monitoring Group established pursuant to resolution 1519 (2003). The Council members in general expressed concern about the continuing reports of violations of the arms embargo. They emphasized the importance of effective monitoring of the sanctions and expressed full support for the work of the Monitoring Group. Most members underlined the importance of the frontline States in the effective implementation of the arms embargo on Somalia. While taking note of the steps taken by those States to better implement the embargo, the members underlined expectations for further cooperation from them. Members also looked forward to the list of violators of sanctions that the Monitoring Group was expected to provide in its final report. Some members emphasized the need for increased international attention, particularly by the Security Council, in finding a solution to the Somali problem. The link between progress in the peace process and better monitoring of the arms embargo was underlined. Several members welcomed the recent positive developments in the reconciliation process, in particular the joint communiqué of 23 May 2004 of the Ministerial Facilitation Committee of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, which had launched the final phase of the Reconciliation Conference.

### Mission to West Africa

In informal consultations, the Council agreed to schedule the Mission to West Africa from 20 to 29 June. The Secretary-General was accordingly notified by the President of the Council of the dates and the agreed terms of reference.

## Asia

### Afghanistan

In his first appearance since his appointment, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Jean Arnault, briefed the Council on the situation in Afghanistan at an open briefing on 27 May. The briefing included an assessment of the latest security situation as well as a progress report on the electoral process and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of the Afghan factional forces. The Special Representative inter alia noted that insecurity in Afghanistan continued to follow a well-known pattern, stemming from extremist groups, militias, and drug-related violence. He stated that various extremist groups were involved, including Taliban operating in the south and foreign fighters in the south-east and in the east. In the context of elections, while noting that 2.7 million voters had been registered, he expressed concern about the prospect of violent opposition to the electoral process as well as insecurity leading to under-registration in some provinces. On disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, he described as critical the need to address "one of the most dangerous legacies of the lengthy Afghan conflict, namely the continued existence of multiple armies that jeopardize the building of a viable Afghan State and constitute a permanent threat to civil peace". Noting that the significance of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process went beyond elections, he said that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan was insisting that the process was not optional but both a central and an urgent task of the Transitional Government. The Special Representative concluded by making a strong appeal for international assistance for security in Afghanistan and called upon NATO countries to honour their commitments in this context. He said, "whether it is counter-terrorism, electoral security, counter-narcotics or control of factional fighting, at this critical juncture for the Afghan peace process international security assistance continues to make the difference between success and failure".

During the informal consultations following the open briefing, Council members expressed concern regarding the security situation. Underlining the importance of the elections, as well as the need to tackle the drug problem, the Council members called for strengthening security in Afghanistan. The need to urgently expand the International Security Assistance Force was stressed by several members. They also emphasized the need to accelerate the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Afghan factional forces as well as security sector reform.

### Bougainville, Papua New Guinea

At a public meeting on 6 May, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Danilo Türk, briefed the Council on the latest developments in Bougainville. He noted inter alia that the disarmament process was proceeding well and that the Bougainville Interim Provincial Government had started preparations

for the next steps in the electoral process for the Autonomous Bougainville Government. It seemed that the earliest possible time for the elections would be the end of November or early December. The peace process had become a success story and the parties should keep the momentum and double their efforts to complete the constitutional process, thus opening the way for the elections. The United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB) would continue to assist in these endeavours. For their part, the Council members welcomed the continued progress towards peace and expressed appreciation for the facilitating role of UNOMB. Several participants supported the extension of the Mission's mandate, which was due to expire on 30 June. Others expressed readiness to discuss the recommendations of a Secretariat team due to visit Bougainville in June.

**Iraq**

Iraq continued to dominate the Council's agenda during May. The urgency of discussing Iraq was dictated by the approaching date for the transfer of sovereignty to Iraq (30 June). Discussions continued in various formats throughout the month on issues related to a new resolution on Iraq.

At an open meeting on 19 May, the Council received the last quarterly briefing from the United States of America and the United Kingdom as required under resolution 1483 (2003). The statement by the United States noted that, on 30 June, the Coalition Provisional Authority and the framework of occupation recognized and established under resolution 1483 (2003) would come to an end, the Governing Council of Iraq would cease to exist, and an interim government of Iraq would assume the responsibility and authority for governing a sovereign Iraq. The Government of Iraq thus constituted would inter alia prepare for elections for a Transitional National Assembly, to be held possibly by the end of 2004 and in any event no later than 31 January 2005.

On the issue of abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib, it was emphasized that the United States had strongly condemned and apologized for the abuses and that steps were being taken to ensure that such actions were not repeated. The justice system was moving swiftly, investigations were proceeding, and those convicted would be punished.

As for the future, the Coalition emphasized its commitment to see Iraq complete a successful political transition to a democratic, constitutional government. It was noted that the security situation during the reporting period had remained difficult and that the multinational force had been on the offensive "against former regime elements and foreign terrorists" in Fallujah and Ramadi. It was expected that violent elements would make a concerted effort to disrupt the transition and destabilize Iraq prior to 30 June. Efforts were under way to build the Iraqi national security institutions. The United States noted efforts to establish a unit within the multinational force under unified command to provide dedicated security for United Nations personnel and facilities in Iraq, and urged the international community to participate in this important task. The United States briefing also highlighted steps taken to restore and establish national and local institutions for representative government, touched on the efforts of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, Lakhdar Brahimi, and the electoral mission led by Carina Perelli, noted progress made by the Coalition Provisional Authority in administering the oil-for-food programme (prior to its handover to Iraq by 30 June), and the work done by the Iraq

Survey Group in the area of disarmament. It was emphasized that the Council would consider a new draft resolution in the coming weeks and that the international community should come together in support of Iraq and its people.

In his briefing, the representative of the United Kingdom stated that abuse of Iraqi prisoners was completely unacceptable, that the United Kingdom investigated thoroughly cases raised, and apologized for and would not tolerate any mistreatment. The United Kingdom representative also updated the Council on the reconstruction efforts, including the restoration of water and sanitation infrastructure, oil production, the operations of the transportation system, the recovery of the health-care system and efforts in the field of education and economic development. A public works programme was under way to address the issue of unemployment. In the arena of justice and the rule of law, the focus was on three independent but complementary platforms, namely, the Ministry of Human Rights; a National Human Rights Committee; and viable, active and sustainable independent human rights non-governmental organizations. Work was also continuing on promoting the participation of women. Eleven Ministries had been transferred to Iraqi control and others would be transferred on the path to the restoration of full Iraqi sovereignty.

During the informal consultations following the open briefing, the Council members expressed concern at the increased level of violence in Iraq, noted the importance of 30 June as the date for the transfer of sovereignty, sought clarifications on different aspects of the transition in both the political and the security spheres, and expressed support for the ongoing mission of the Secretary-General's Special Adviser. The Council members also shared their views on the framework within which discussions on the new draft resolution on Iraq should be pursued. It was stressed that the new Government of Iraq should be credible and accepted by all Iraqis; it should have full sovereignty, and the Iraqi security forces should be under Iraqi control. Some felt that there should be two resolutions, to endorse the interim government and to deal with the other issues. The Coalition members provided answers to the points raised and noted that discussions on issues relating to the resolution would also continue in the "informal informals" format.

In informal consultations on 24 May, the draft resolution on Iraq was formally tabled by the United States and the United Kingdom. In introducing the text, the sponsors inter alia emphasized that the draft underlined the transfer of full sovereignty to the Interim Government of Iraq, adapted the arms embargo, defined the United Nations leading role in the political process, recognized the control and authority of the Iraqi government over Iraqi forces, recognized also the need to build strong coordination between the Iraqi forces and the multinational force, and invited all States to provide technical assistance to Iraq.

The Council members generally welcomed the circulation of the draft resolution and offered their preliminary comments and sought clarification on various aspects of the text including the concept of sovereignty, the proposed coordination arrangements for security, economic administration and questions regarding the acceptability of the proposed political and security arrangements among the Iraqi people. The sponsors welcomed the ideas presented during the consultations and undertook to look into them to improve the text. The sponsors also envisaged further interaction between the Council and the Interim Government of Iraq immediately following its selection.

The Council resumed its consideration of the draft resolution in informal consultations on 26 May. The members generally agreed that the draft provided a good basis for discussion. Some members stressed the need for more clarity on various provisions including the concept of sovereignty, political and economic powers and responsibilities of the Interim Government, and the relationship between the multinational force and the Iraqi forces. The members agreed that the report of the Secretary-General's Special Adviser would be important to improve the provisions in the draft. It was agreed that, while the experts would discuss other technical provisions, political and security-related issues in the draft would be considered at the ambassadorial-level consultations.

**The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question**

On 17 May, the Permanent Representative of Yemen, on behalf of the Group of Arab States, requested an immediate meeting of the Security Council to consider the grave and ongoing violations of international law in the Rafah area (S/2004/393). Reacting to the request, the Council held informal consultations on 18 May, during which Algeria, on behalf of the Arab Group, tabled a draft resolution for the Council's consideration. Introducing the draft, Algeria informed the Council about the unfolding tragedy of large-scale demolition of Palestinian homes in Rafah in the Gaza area. Most Council members supported the draft resolution, while terming the demolitions "unacceptable". One delegation, while stating that it opposed demolition of houses in principle, emphasized the need to balance the text. It proposed amendments to the draft resolution and desired to discuss them with the sponsors so as to agree on a consensual text. The text evolved in subsequent discussions among the interested parties as well as in further informal consultations on 19 May.

Following protracted negotiations, the draft resolution was adopted on 19 May, as resolution 1544 (2004), by 14 votes in favour, with 1 abstention. The Secretary-General, who had earlier condemned the home demolitions, was present during the adoption of the resolution, in which the Council called on Israel to respect its legal obligations, expressed grave concern regarding the humanitarian situation of Palestinians made homeless in the Rafah area, called for cessation of violence, and called on both parties to immediately implement their obligations under the road map. Several members made statements in explanation of vote after the adoption. The Permanent Observer of Palestine and the Representative of Israel also made statements.

At an open meeting on 21 May, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, gave the monthly briefing on the situation in the Middle East. He noted that since the Secretariat's last briefing the situation had been characterized by growing violence, destruction and despair. He emphasized two *points from the text of resolution 1544 (2004), namely, the need for the Government* of Israel to ensure that it stayed within the parameters of international law in defending its citizens; and the need for both parties immediately to implement their obligations under the road map.

The Under-Secretary-General informed the Council that the humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory was at a very low point, with visible signs of donor fatigue and a severe shortage of finances for humanitarian assistance efforts. Elsewhere in the region, along the Blue Line, violations had threatened to

disrupt a precarious stability. He reiterated various elements of the Quartet's statement issued on 4 May expressing the commitment of the Quartet principals to finding a lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He further stated that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) had reported that more than 18,000 people, in total, had lost their homes in Gaza since the outbreak of the uprising in September 2000. The Agency estimated that it would cost $32 million to rehouse them. To date, UNRWA had managed to rehouse only 1,000 homeless people.

As for the situation along the Blue Line, the Under-Secretary-General informed the Council that, after an Israeli incursion into Lebanon across the Blue Line on 5 May and ensuing anti-aircraft fire by Hezbollah, the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Southern Lebanon, Steffan de Mistura, had publicly urged both sides to exercise restraint amid a background of high regional tension. Further, the Secretary-General, on 7 May, expressed his great concern about the escalations and strongly urged the parties to exercise restraint.

Following the open briefing, the Council held informal consultations. The Council members generally supported immediate actions by the parties to the conflict under the road map in order to bring permanent peace in the region. The persistent violations of international law in the occupied territories were strongly condemned. While noting Israel's "disengagement plan", the members generally called for its implementation in accordance with the road map. Some members acknowledged the right of States to self-defence but stressed the exercise of that right within the bounds of international law.

**Timor-Leste**

On 10 May, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, Kamalesh Sharma, briefed the Council at a public meeting. He described the engagement of United Nations peacekeeping missions in Timor-Leste as "encouraging" and noted that the work of the Government of Timor-Leste with the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) had been a model of collaboration. He stressed that a dedicated leadership committed to institution-building, the rule of law, transparency and accountability could make national accomplishments irreversible, while supportive partnerships with the outside world played an important part. The Special Representative highlighted the major strides in developing the capabilities of the security agencies of Timor-Leste, including the fact that the national police had assumed policing responsibility in all 13 districts and was due to take executive responsibility on 19 May. Through its institution- and capacity-building activities, UNMISET had contributed significantly to the viability and stability of State institutions. Considerable advances had also been made in the development of friendship, goodwill and cooperation in bilateral relations with Indonesia. The Special Representative stressed that a healthy and functioning justice sector as well as social peace, stability and security were prerequisites for sustainable gains in the areas of governance and economic development.

The meeting was also addressed by the Minister of State and Minister in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Timor-Leste, Ana Pessoa Pinto, who inter alia stated that Timor-Leste's association with the United Nations had been a unique and inspiring chapter in the country's history. She highlighted the positive developments in internal consolidation and external relations and underlined the

need for the international community's substantial and continuing support in ensuring that the investments made in strengthening the self-governing capability of Timor-Leste were a springboard to prosperity. In their statements, the Council members and all participating delegations inter alia expressed broad support for extending UNMISET and appropriately adjusting its size and mandate.

On 14 May, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1543 (2004) extending the mandate of UNMISET for a period of six months, with a view to subsequently extending it for a final period of six months, until 20 May 2005. The Council also decided to reduce the size of the Mission and revise its tasks, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report of 29 April 2004 (S/2004/333).

On 19 May, in a letter addressed to the President of the Council (S/2004/418), the Secretary-General conveyed his intention to appoint Sukehiro Hasegawa (Japan) as his Special Representative for Timor-Leste and Head of UNMISET. The Secretary-General also expressed his sincere appreciation for the work done by Kamalesh Sharma as his Special Representative during the past two years.

## Europe

### Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro

At a public meeting on 11 May, the Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (S/2004/348), covering that Mission's activities from 1 January to 31 March. It was also briefed on the latest situation in Kosovo by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Harri Holkeri, who stated that the violence in mid-March was the most serious setback to the Mission's efforts in the past five years and had shaken UNMIK to its foundations. He reported that the speed with which the unrest spread had overwhelmed the ability of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the UNMIK security forces to respond. The Mission had no means to augment its security forces and KFOR was not reinforced until after the end of the violence, which claimed the lives of 19 individuals and resulted in injuries to nearly 1,000 persons. This setback had also forced the Mission to question whether it had done enough to prevent the violence and adequately respond to the situation. The Mission was since reviewing its operational procedures and coordination in response to crisis.

The Special Representative stated that UNMIK would do all it could to bring to justice all those who had provoked or engaged in the violence, noting that around 270 arrests had already been made. He added that the rights of all Kosovo's communities could be ensured above all by the vigorous implementation of the standards for Kosovo, which remained a top priority for UNMIK. The Kosovo standards implementation plan set out in detail the actions designed to meet the standards, who was responsible for undertaking them, and when they were to be carried out. The commitment to the plan's implementation by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government and the people of Kosovo was crucial to its success. The coming elections would be a test of that commitment.

The members of the Council stressed that no political gain must result from the March violence, and said the Kosovo's leaders must bring the perpetrators to justice

and seize illegal weapons. They must begin to rebuild damaged sites or provide some form of compensation, and facilitate the return of those who had been displaced again. Further, they must comply fully with commitments made to restore multi-ethnicity and ensure the reconstruction of Kosovo.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro, Vuk Drašković, and the representatives of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), Japan, Iceland and Ukraine also addressed the meeting.

## Peacekeeping

### International Criminal Court

The draft resolution seeking extension of exemption from the International Criminal Court's investigation or prosecution in respect of officials or personnel from a contributing State not a party to the Rome Statute was introduced by the United States delegation during informal consultations on 19 May. At the request of the sponsor, the draft resolution was circulated in provisional form (S/2004/408) and voting was set for 21 May. A public meeting was scheduled for the same date after the Council received a request from some member States "to convene a public meeting and invite interested States to speak in the Council's discussions on the proposed renewal of resolution 1487 (2003)". During informal consultations on 21 May, the Council was informed that one delegation did not have instructions on the draft resolution and needed more time. The vote and the public meeting were accordingly deferred to a later date. Subsequently, the sponsor informed the Council that the request for an early vote on the draft resolution had been withdrawn for the time being. Consequently, no further action was taken on the draft during the month.

### International Day of Peacekeepers

The United Nations observed the International Day of Peacekeepers on 29 May. On behalf of the Council members, the President made a statement paying tribute to all men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. He noted that every day United Nations peacekeepers helped to build and maintain peace, to relieve human suffering, and to promote sustainable development, and added that the Security Council would do its utmost to ensure the safety and security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel.

## Terrorism

The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/14) on 10 May unequivocally condemning the terrorist bomb attack on 9 May in Grozny, Russian Federation, as a result of which many people were injured and killed, including the President of the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, Akhmad Kadyrov.

### Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

In a letter addressed to the President of the Council on 12 May (S/2004/389), the Secretary-General conveyed his intention to appoint Javier Rupérez (Spain) as the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 1535 (2004). Following consultations with the Council members, the President conveyed the Council's approval of Mr. Ruperez's appointment in his letter to the Secretary-General dated 14 May (S/2004/390).

**Bureau of the Counter-Terrorism Committee**

Consequent upon the departure of Ambassador Inocencio Arias, Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and following consultations, the members of the Council elected the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation as Chairman of the Committee until the end of 2004. It was decided that, pending the arrival of the new Permanent Representative, Ambassador Alexander Konuzin of the Russian Federation would be the Acting Chairman of the Committee. The Council members also elected Ambassador Baali (Algeria) as Vice-Chairman till the end of 2004, to fill the position vacated by the Russian Federation (see S/2004/436).

**Committee concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban**

On 25 May, the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban, Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz of Chile, presented the first 120-day oral report to the Council, as required under paragraph 12 of resolution 1526 (2004), on the work of the Committee and its Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team. The Chairman inter alia underlined the importance of extensive and effective international cooperation in preventing terrorist attacks. He noted the increase in State compliance with sanctions as a positive development but pointed out that the quality of the reports submitted by Member States was uneven. He also reviewed the steps being taken by Member States on domestic legislation, freezing of assets, and enforcement of the travel and arms embargoes. In addition to the Council members, four non-Council members expressed views during the meeting.

## Thematic issues

**Open debate on United Nations peacekeeping operations**

In an open debate on United Nations peacekeeping operations held on 17 May, the Council considered the recent surge in demand for United Nations peacekeeping operations and the forthcoming challenges for the United Nations system in the wake of increased requirements. The Pakistan presidency's non-paper on the subject elaborated the theme and identified relevant questions to guide the debate (S/2004/378). The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Khursid M. Kasuri, chaired the meeting and highlighted the upcoming challenges. He expressed the hope that the Council debate would increase awareness about the upcoming needs, help to generate sufficient levels of political, financial, human and logistical support, and thus promote the shared objective of utilizing the instrument of peacekeeping in the furtherance of international peace and security. The Secretary-General, in his remarks, underlined the need for the sustained political engagement of Governments, clear mandates, and necessary resources. He noted that the peacekeeping budget, currently at $2.82 billion, would need an extra $1 billion by the end of 2004 for the new missions.

Over 40 Member States participated in the debate to express views on the subject. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, responded to comments made and questions raised during the debate.

A presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/16) was adopted at the conclusion, in which the Council called on Member States to give the political and financial support as well as the civilian and military personnel to allow the multiple operations to start optimally and fulfil their respective mandates in an effective manner. The Council stressed the need for improved integrated mission planning, enhanced capacity for rapid deployment of personnel and materiel, clear mandates, ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers and other United Nations personnel, closer coordination with regional and subregional arrangements in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations to ensure complementary capacities and approaches, and a strengthened relationship between the Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat. The Council recognized, in this regard, that the meetings and mechanisms established by its resolution 1353 (2001) served to facilitate the consultations process, and further encouraged the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations to pay special attention to matters relating to the surge in demand for United Nations peacekeeping over the coming year and, as necessary, to report to the Council. It emphasized the importance of peacekeeping training, and also encouraged closer cooperation between all relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and international financial institutions, regional and subregional organizations and the private sector in order to ensure from the outset coordination, coherence and continuity between the different parts of the overall strategy, in particular between peacekeeping on the one hand and peace-building on the other hand.

**Complex crises and the United Nations response**

The Council held a wide-ranging discussion on complex crises and United Nations response at a public meeting on 28 May. The primary objective of the discussion, as outlined by the Pakistan presidency in its non-paper (S/2004/423), was to have a strategic look at the interrelated issues constituting complex crises and to see how long-term, comprehensive, integrated and composite approaches to addressing those complex crises could be developed and implemented with enhanced system-wide coordination.

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and the President of the Economic and Social Council attended the meeting and made statements. A number of useful and important ideas and suggestions were put forward on policy responses and enhanced system-wide coordination for preventing, managing and resolving complex crises. Conflict prevention, the link between peace and development, and addressing the root causes emerged as the most vital components of an integrated, coherent and comprehensive approach for durable peace and security. Many speakers noted the relevance of the topic in the context of the work of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and the sixtieth session of the General Assembly in 2005. A non-paper on the proposal for ad hoc composite committees of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council was informally circulated by the Pakistan delegation during the debate. The presidency undertook to prepare a summary of important ideas and suggestions and circulate these later.

## Other meetings

### Briefing by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

At an open meeting on 7 May, Solomon Passy, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria and Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), briefed the Council on the organization's activities relating to various issues of peace and security in Europe, including individual conflict situations and wider concerns such as counter-terrorism, policing, border management and security. With its specific expertise and unique activities, OSCE was a special partner of the United Nations as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter. OSCE was also willing to increase cooperation and engagement with the Security Council in assisting international efforts in situations outside its domain, including Afghanistan and Iraq. Other relevant regional organizations might also be requested to support the United Nations efforts.

### Briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

At a public meeting on 20 May, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers, provided a briefing on the activities of his Office in dealing with refugee situations around the globe, in particular in Africa and Afghanistan, and emphasized the link between forced population movements and international peace and security. Highlighting the spill-over effect of refugees in neighbouring countries, the High Commissioner underlined the need for an effective regional response by bringing together the different domains of the United Nations system and increased interaction between the United Nations peacekeeping operations in bordering regions. Inadequate and inequitable allocation of resources especially in the case of Africa remained a major issue that needed urgent attention. Among major challenges were the successful completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, sustained support for the peace processes and the assurance of security to enable safe and voluntary return. The briefing was followed by an inter-active discussion with the members of the Council on the issues raised by the High Commissioner.

## Interaction with other organs

### Economic and Social Council

On 3 May, on the invitation of the President of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the Council attended the high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council to assess the work of its ad hoc advisory groups on countries emerging from conflict (Burundi and Guinea-Bissau). In his remarks, on behalf of the members, the President of the Council noted that, from conflict prevention to peacekeeping to post-conflict stabilization, there was a visible effort to adopt comprehensive and coherent approaches to promote durable peace and security. Within the United Nations system, the actions of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council in post-conflict situations in Africa, consistent with their respective responsibilities under the Charter, were complementary and mutually reinforcing and that this evolving coordination should be a matter of satisfaction.

**Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly**

On 14 May, at the invitation of the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Council and three Council colleagues (Brazil, France and Romania) participated in an interactive session of the Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on matters relating to Security Council reform. The discussion focused on the work of the Security Council and the Council's working methods. Issues relating to Council reform, including its size and composition, regional representation, criteria for membership, relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council and accountability were raised during the discussion. Participants from the Council responded in their personal capacity and from their respective national perspectives. The members of the Working Group inter alia noted the increasing openness and stressed the need for greater transparency in the Council's work. They also emphasized the principle of accountability, the need for greater interaction between the two organs consistent with their respective responsibilities under the Charter, and improving the analytical quality of the Council's annual report to the General Assembly. The President of the General Assembly termed the interaction useful.

# Appendix I

## Resolutions and statements adopted in May 2004

### Resolutions

| *Resolution number* | *Subject* |
|---|---|
| 1543 (2004) | The situation in Timor-Leste |
| 1544 (2004) | The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question |
| 1545 (2004) | The situation in Burundi |

### Statements by the President

| *Statement number and date* | *Subject* |
|---|---|
| S/PRST/2004/14 of 10 May 2004 | Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts |
| S/PRST/2004/15 of 14 May 2004 | The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| S/PRST/2004/16 of 17 May 2004 | United Nations peacekeeping operations |
| S/PRST/2004/17 of 25 May 2004 | The situation in Côte d'Ivoire |
| S/PRST/2004/18 of 25 May 2004 | Letter dated 25 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council |

# Appendix II

## Statements to the press made by the President of the Security Council during the month of May 2004

### Ethiopia and Eritrea (4 May)

The members of the Security Council heard a briefing from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the situation in Ethiopia and Eritrea during informal consultations on 4 May. The briefing covered developments since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1531 (2004).

The members of the Council expressed their concern at the deterioration in the cooperation of Eritrea with the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea. They noted with concern the continuing restrictions on the Mission's freedom of movement, in particular in the areas adjacent to the Temporary Security Zone; the closing of the main supply route to UNMEE troops in Sector West by the Eritrean authorities; the increase in detentions of UNMEE local staff, which had a negative effect on the Mission's effectiveness; and recent public allegations by a senior Eritrean Government official in charge of cooperation with UNMEE, which could have a detrimental effect on the security of Mission staff.

The members of the Council view with disappointment Ethiopia's continued rejection of significant parts of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission decision, which heightens regional tension and blocks completion of the mandate of UNMEE.

The members of the Council stressed that UNMEE was established at the invitation of both parties, standing ready to help them in the implementation of the Algiers Agreements. They pointed out that the failure of Ethiopia to permit full demarcation to go forward, as well as the continued and increasing restrictions on the work of UNMEE, raised serious questions about long-term viability of the Mission.

The members of the Council called on Eritrea to meet the Security Council's demand, expressed in resolution 1531 (2004), for full freedom of movement for UNMEE and the removal, with immediate effect and without preconditions, of any and all restrictions and impediments to the work of UNMEE and its staff in the discharge of their mandate.

The members of the Council noted with deep concern the continued lack of progress in the implementation of the final and binding demarcation decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and reiterated the call on the parties to cooperate fully and promptly with the Boundary Commission and to create the necessary conditions for demarcation to proceed expeditiously. The members of the Council reiterated their support for the efforts by the Special Envoy to engage the two parties with the objective of overcoming the current stalemate in the peace process. They called upon both parties to explore ways of moving the demarcation process forward.

The members of the Council expressed their intention to remain seized of the matter and requested the Secretariat to monitor the situation closely and to provide an update of the situation as necessary.

**Côte d'Ivoire (14 May)**

The members of the Security Council have thanked the Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights, Bertrand Ramcharan, for his briefing on the events that occurred in Abidjan on 25 and 26 March 2004 and for his presentation of the report of the commission of inquiry. They have taken note of this report with interest and concern, and intend to give it further consideration.

The members of the Council firmly condemn the violations of human rights. They note that putting an end to impunity is important for resolving the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and urge that those responsible for violations of human rights, in particular those committed on 25 and 26 March in Abidjan, be held accountable.

The members of the Council welcome the intention of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish a commission of inquiry that will look into the events going back to September 2002, and urge full support for the upcoming investigation by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The members of the Council have expressed their determination to consider rapidly the concrete steps that could be taken to ensure that those who are responsible for all the violations of human rights perpetrated in Côte d'Ivoire since September 2002 are held accountable for their actions.

The members of the Council have expressed once again their deep concern that the parties to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement have not carried out their commitments under the Agreement, which has put at risk the process leading to free, open and fair elections. They urge all the parties to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement to fulfil their commitments under the Agreement immediately.

The members of the Council urged the immediate establishment of the National Human Rights Commission called for in the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement.